

Message Text

SECRET

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ACTION NODS-00

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /001 W

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FM AMEMBASSY CAIRO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 6878

S E C R E T CAIRO 9770

NODIS/CHEROKEE

FOR THE SECRETARY FROM AMBASSADOR

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR EG SY IS

SUBJECT: FAHMY'S REACTION TO REPORT ON SECRETARY'S MEETING WITH KHADD
AM

REF SECTO 14021

1. MET WITH FAHMY TODAY TO GIVE HIM REPORT OF YOUR
TALK WITH KHADDAM. HE READ IT WITH INTEREST AND IS ARRANGING
THAT AN ARABIC TRANSLATION BE MADE AND SENT TO THE PRESIDENT
AT MIT ABUL KOM. HE ASKED THAT I CONVEY THIS THANKS.

2. MUSING ABOUT THE TALK, FAHMY THOUGHT THAT FROM NOW
ON IT MIGHT BE BETTER TO CONTACT ASAD DIRECTLY THROUGH
DICK MURPHY. HE QUESTIONED WHETHER KHADDAM IS TRULY
REFLECTING ASAD'S VIEWS. DIRECT APPROACH TO
ASAD THROUGH MURPHY WILL, IN FAHMY'S VIEW, ENABLE ASAD
TO "PUT KHADDAM INTO THE PICTURE" ON TO THE EXTENT THE
PRESIDENT WANTS TO USE HIM.

3. FAHMY REGARDS KHADDAM'S TALK AS LARGELY WINDOW
DRESSING. HE DOES NOT BELIEVE THAT ASAD IS AS RIGID AS
KHADDAM'S COMMENTS WOULD SUGGEST. I ASKED IF HE HAD
ANY EVIDENCE TO SUPPORT HIS VIEW.

4. FAHMY'S EVIDENCE, IT TURNS OUT, IS A REPORT FROM
SECRET

SECRET

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ZAID RIFAI AFTER RECENT VISIT OF KING HUSSEIN TO DAMASCUS.

ACCORDING RIFAI'S REPORT, AS GIVEN TO EGYPTIAN AMBASSADOR IN AMMAN, ASAD IS NOT RPT NOT AGAINST STEP BY STEP APPROACH OR US CATALYTIC ROLE. HE SIMPLY HAS SERIOUS RESERVATIONS ABOUT SOME OF THE ARTICLES IN THE DISENGAGEMENT AGREEMENT. IF SOMETHING CAN BE GOTTEN FOR ASAD THAT HE CAN ACCEPT, FAHMY BELIEVES THE SYRIAN PRESIDENT WILLBUY IT. IN THE MEANTIME, HE MAY CONTINUE PUBLICLY ATTACK SOME OF THE ARTICLES OF THE SINAI AGREEMENT IN ORDER TO JUSTIFY HIS POSITION.

5. FAHMY ALSO THOUGHT IT MIGHT HAVE BEEN HELPFUL TO EXPLAIN TO KHADDAM THE POSITION OF THE USSR AND SPECIFICALLY WHAT THE SOVIETS CAN OR CANNOT DO.
EILTS

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